

SAFETY FIRST

C. E. B.

GREETINGS

To you the pleasure we derive
from the cordial business rela-
tions existing between us.

May we wish you and yours A
Merry Christmas, and A Most
Prosperous New Year.

**Cape Exchange
Bank**

CONGRESS IN JAM AS PEACE COMES

(Continued from Page 1.)

opportunity to solve their own troubles before the responsible heads of the Nation decide that there are any other question affecting the human family, other than telegraph, telephones and railroads. The President before he left, passed this particular buck to Congress. Mr. McAdoo has taken up the railroad problem, and he declares that he believes "that a five year test" will give the American people the right to answer regarding government control or ownership. Mr. Burleson argues for government ownership, of the wire lines, and tells how many Postmaster Generals advocated the same thing up to 1892, but he shows how little and unfair he is by omitting in his supposedly historical statement the name of his immediate predecessor, Frank H. Hitchcock, who was bitten by the

socialistic bug, and left it in his office to get hold of Burleson when the latter stepped in. There was a sort of a feud between these two men. Hitchcock declared that he had achieved a surplus in the operation of the Postoffice Department for a calendar year. Burleson denied it, and he is now claiming similar surplus this year. Nevertheless there is good reason to believe that the department if subjected to systems of accounting such as are imposed by the Interstate Commerce Commission, would show a steady loss.

The Railroad Administration and the Postmaster General are certainly very wobbly with reference to their new responsibilities brought on by the war. Their whole plea for continued control of the great properties directed by them, is justified by the claim that they should be experimented upon, dissected and improved in the public interests. And so Mr. McAdoo and Mr. Burleson want to continue to turn the politicians loose as a prey upon these industries and utilities.

Assuming that inexperienced men of

this class, most of whom have socialistic tendencies, are better equipped to lay out a course for these arteries of the nation, then the men who have been trained to the job, and who have brought the properties along the pathway from swaddling clothes and pioneer days to matured strength times.

In this problem one finds the principal responsibility which other statesmen and politicians assume toward the multifarious affairs of the country. Many big problems seem to be overlooked entirely, and official government appears to have lost its moral. An outlet would define statesmanship as near-sighted, since at present it sees nothing but rails, steam engines and wires. And statesmanship has no ears, apparently, for any sound except those of the "holo girl" dots and dashes, and the whistle of locomotives. Even Democracy's stentorian voice seems choked with the flu, and the indications are that "nobody works but father"—and he's gone to Europe—bless his mission!

Greetings And Good Cheer

At this Season of Good Cheer and Good Will Towards Men, we feel that in wishing a Joyful Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year, it will not be amiss to express our appreciation of the business relations which have contributed so much to our pleasure during the year. If through our efforts to serve you, we can please you, each succeeding Yuletide will offer us greater cause for rejoicing.

F. F. Braun & Bros.
Good Hope Street
The Model Grocery
Broadway

ST. LOUIS MARKETS

St. Louis, Dec. 24.—Unfavorable weather conditions over the belt having prevented the delivery of corn in the country and reduced receipts at the primary markets to the smallest quantity at this time in many years, with extremely tight stocks available for delivery on contracts, made for bullish sentiment on corn futures in the early trading on the exchange today, and prices advanced to 1½¢ to 1½¢, with May at \$1.39½ and January at \$1.43½.

The fact that cash corn in most of the western markets was sold at lower quotations, in spite of tight receipts, afterwards lead to increased pressure on the futures, which was accelerated by the weakness in oats, and prices eased to 2 and 2½¢ from the day's top to ½¢ to 1¢ lower than Saturday's finish. January dropping to \$1.41½, and May to \$1.37½.

Oats were slow in getting started and displayed but little activity at any time, although prices were weak and lower throughout. February slumping 1½¢ to 69½¢, and March ½¢ to 70¢. Easier cash markets a very slack demand for spot stuff was responsible. Closing figures recorded net losses on the day of ½¢ to 1¢ in corn and 1¢ to 2¢ in oats.

Wheat—No. 1 Red Winter wheat, \$2.40; No. 2 red, \$2.39; No. 3 red, \$2.38; No. 1 hard, \$2.31; No. 2 hard, \$2.29; No. 3 hard, \$2.27.

The domestic visible supply of wheat last week increased 2,548,000 but previous week, decreased 3,140,000 bu.

Cattle—Just a fair supply of cattle got in today and it is expected that the week's run will be light as shippers usually curtail operation during the holiday period. Quality of today's supply was the poorest seen in a long while. Market opened slow, but ruled steady. Offerings mainly canners and light weight cattle on the stocker order.

Hogs—A moderate supply arrived, several thousand holdovers were on sale. The market was active on best with prices steady; while others were very slow sale. The top was \$17.50 and the bulk of the hogs went at \$17.35 to \$17.55. Best hogs went at \$17.45 and upwards and moved freely, while others were slow sale at \$17.00 to \$17.20, best pigs and lights under 150 lbs. \$14.00 to \$15.20 and others \$10 to \$13.75. The close was dull and clearance very poor.

Sheep—With a moderate supply on sale the market was active and generally 25¢ higher, the best lambs going at \$14.65, sheep \$9 and bucks at \$7.50.

With the shutters pulled down in the American shooting gallery and the period of taking inventories is upon us, and the balance sheet is placed at the Reconstruction Congress convened at Atlantic City tells some startling tales. While many industries have profited immensely from the war, there is also a trail of destruction, and the industrial casualty list reveals the fact that a large part of the public utilities of the United States went into the war without bullets for their guns. While Mr. McAdoo was saving the railroad situation by shooting up the charge for service thirty or forty per cent, the street railways, lightning and power plants were struggling along under conditions that have been carrying them toward the same fate that overtook the classic one-horse shay. The net 63 per cent of the electric railway lines of the United States has suffered a falling-off in net income of 82 per cent for the first 6 months of 1918 as compared with the corresponding period of 1917. Material and labor costs have brought the utilities almost to the verge of destruction, and these important features of civic and industrial life have been turned to the communities that they serve for relief from onerous conditions. While the world talks reconstruction, the local application of the principle seems difficult to apply, and the politicians pop up promiscuously in every locality to tell the utility men that, "well, you made a bargain, now stick to it." Reconstruction to their minds, is intended for Europe, Asia and Africa, or any other old place except home. The American Electric Railway Association has set on foot a movement to make an analysis of the reconstruction problems relating to local franchises, with a view of bringing about a radical revision of the existing arrangements. The stern fact that confronts the public with respect to public utilities calls for a remodeling of the existing arrangements between the operators and the owners of the properties and the communities they serve, if destruction of this great national activity is to be avoided.

May the kindness of friends,
the thoughtfulness of associates
and the happiness of
those near and dear make for
you a perfect Christmas Day.

**CAPE GIRARDEAU BELL
TELEPHONE CO.**

John L. Roberts of 233 S. Spanish street, returned from the Marine service last Sunday evening. He was stationed at Seattle, Wash., doing patrol duty along the Pacific coast from the North. He was in the service Norme and other Alaska points in about 8 months.



Cattle Buying For Swift & Company

Swift & Company buys more than 9000 head of cattle on an average, every market day.

Each one of them is "sized up" by experts.

Both the packer's buyer and the commission salesman must judge what amount of meat each animal will yield, and how fine it will be, the grading of the hide, and the quantity and quality of the fat.

Both must know market conditions for live stock and meat throughout the country. The buyer must know where the different qualities, weights, and kinds of cattle can be best marketed as beef. If the buyer pays more than the animal is worth, the packer loses money on it. If he offers less, another packer, or a shipper or feeder, gets it away from him.

If the seller accepts too little, the live-stock raiser gets less than he is entitled to. If he holds out for more than it is worth, he fails to make a sale.

A variation of a few cents in the price per hundred pounds is a matter of vital importance to the packer, because it means the difference between profit and loss.

Swift & Company, U. S. A.

